

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A spirit-level vial comprising a transparent vessel containing a globule of a first liquid suspended in a medium comprising a second liquid, wherein said transparent vessel is essentially completely filled by said medium, and wherein said globule is capable of moving freely through said medium in response to any changes in the spatial orientation of said transparent vessel, wherein said second liquid has a higher density than said first liquid, said first liquid being an aqueous liquid and said second liquid being an organic liquid.

2-7. Cancelled

8. (Currently Amended) The spirit-level vial according to claim 71, wherein the aqueous liquid comprises a mixture of water, alcohol and a colored dye.

9. (Currently Amended) The spirit-level vial according to claim 71, wherein the organic liquid comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of organohalogen compounds polyphenyl ethers.

10. (Original) The spirit-level vial according to claim 9, wherein the organohalogen compound is selected from the group consisting of halogenated C₁-C₁₀ straight or branched alkanes, halogenated C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkanes, halogenated straight or

branched C₂-C₁₀ alkenes, halogenated C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkenes, halogenated straight or branched C₂-C₁₀ alkynes.

11. (Original) The spirit-level vial according to claim 9, wherein the organohalogen compound is a fluorinated or perfluorinated aliphatic or alicyclic compound.

12-14. Cancelled.

15. (Previously presented) The spirit-level vial according to claim 1, wherein the first and/or second liquids further comprises visibility-enhancing particles.

16. (Original) The spirit-level vial according to claim 15, wherein the visibility-enhancing particles are fluorescent particles.

17. (Currently Amended) The spirit-level vial according to claim 1, wherein both of the two liquids are strongly colored, and wherein the two liquids are each colored with a mutually contrasting color.

18. (Previously presented) The spirit-level vial according to claim 1, wherein one of the two liquids is strongly colored, the other liquid being essentially colorless.

19. (Previously presented) The spirit-level vial according to claim 1, wherein the transparent vessel is constructed of optically clear material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polymethylpentene, perspex, polycarbonate and glass.

20. (Currently Amended) The spirit-level vial according to claim 1, wherein the internal walls of the vessel are provided with a suitable coating to increase compatibility with the liquids present therein.

21. (Previously presented) A spirit-level comprising:

- a) one or more spirit-level vials according to claim 1;
- b) a base element upon which said one or more spirit-level vials are mounted; and
- c) one or more calibrated markings, wherein said calibrated markings are present

on the surface of the transparent vessel of each of said one or more spirit-level vials

and/or the surface of said base element adjacent to said transparent vessel.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a spirit-level vial according to

claim 1, wherein said vial comprises ~~a-the~~ transparent vessel containing ~~a-the~~ globule of ~~a~~ the first liquid suspended in ~~a-the~~ medium comprising ~~a-the~~ second liquid, wherein said liquids have distinctly different densities, said method ~~comprises-comprising~~:

introducing into said transparent vessel a suitable quantity of the high-density liquid;

immersing the partially filled vessel in the low-density liquid, such that said low-density liquid fills the empty volume of said vessel; and
closing said vessel.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a spirit-level vial according to

claim 1, wherein said vial comprises ~~a-the~~ transparent vessel containing ~~a-the~~ globule of ~~a~~ the first liquid suspended in ~~a-the~~ medium comprising ~~a-the~~ second liquid, wherein said liquids have distinctly different densities, said method ~~comprises-comprising~~:

introducing said liquids into the transparent vessel;

exposing said vessel to vacuum to remove air present therein; and

closing the ~~same~~vessel.

24. (New) The spirit-level vial according to claim 20, wherein the internal walls are coated with a thin layer of a fluor-based polymer.